



**FRIENDS OF THE WILD SWAN
P.O. BOX 5103
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March 17, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record
c/o BPA-PL
707 West Main St., Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

Please accept the following comments on the Columbia River Basin Fish Recovery on behalf of Friends of the Wild Swan. To begin, we believe these tandem processes such as All-H, Snake River Juvenile Salmon Feasibility Report, and Northwest Power Planning Council Multi-Species Framework are extremely confusing and publications we have received did not clarify anything. Therefore, our comments will cover issues that we believe are important to fish recovery.

We recognize that dams are a serious impediment to fish passage, destroy important fish habitat and alter the food web. For these reasons we support removal of the Snake River dams to facilitate salmon recovery. However, we also support scientists findings that important habitat for salmonids be identified (strongholds and refugia) and the agencies build out from there. Protection of strongholds coupled with fish passage seems like a logical way to proceed.

We believe that hatcheries have been overused and have actually had a detrimental impact on salmon. Continuing to dump hatchery fish upon the remaining wild fish is not a viable solution. Emphasis on protecting the best habitat and restoring degraded habitat will further the ends of recovering native fish, not continued reliance on hatcheries.

The documents were unclear as to how the 5% of power will be made up from removing the Snake River dams. Currently important bull trout strongholds in Montana are being negatively impacted by the drawdown schedule in place. Will removal of the Snake River dams exacerbate this problem? We support the Integrated Rule Curves proposed by Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to provide more natural flows for fish both upstream and downstream. Pitting fish species against each other is not a solution especially when providing cold, clean, connected waters benefits all fish species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Arlene Montgomery
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